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ST. THOMAS

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



REPORT

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF

HEALTH.

1925.

EXETER.

Printed by H. Punchard, Alphington Street, St. Thomas,
1926.

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To the Chairman and Members

OF THE

St. Thomas Rural District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1925, including a Survey Report for the five years 1921-1925 inclusive.

Five Year's Survey Report, 1921-1925.

During the past five years disease has increased both in ordinary epidemic disease, and also in Tuberculosis as the following table will show :

NOTIFICATIONS.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
All diseases	-	93	115	109	122
Tuberculosis	-	41	50	61	40

Taking the five years, the birth rate is slightly decreased and the death rate and infant mortality slightly increased.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Birth Rate per 1000	17.9	15.4	16.6	15.2	15.1
Death Rate , ,	11.5	12.7	11.6	11.5	12.1
Infant Mortality , ,	53.4	54.3	60.1	39.7	75.0

The principal cause of death in the District is Heart Disease, symptomatic of the age, this has maintained its Death rate up to last year, but has considerably dropped this year, other principal causes of death are Cancer, Tuberculosis and Influenza, which remain much about the same.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Cancer -	43	33	32	34	36
Heart Disease	36	43	55	49	35
Influenza	8	23	7	17	10
Tuberculosis	26	17	26	20	21

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.

HOUSING—

During the past five years much has been done to improve the standard of the houses in the District and to provide additional ones. From 1921 to 1922, 64 houses were built by this Council, and 40 erected with the aid of Government grants, while only 19 were erected by private enterprise. During the year 1923 the Government passed an Act to enable Local Authorities, with a view of getting small houses built to grant assistance to private enterprise, or to build themselves, and this Council, after due consideration decided, subject to the approval of the Ministry, to grant £100 per house (£25 Council, £75 Government). It was hoped this would solve the housing problem. Up to the end of 1925, 89 subsidies had been granted, of which number 45 houses had been built, this number however has not been sufficient to meet the demand, and as a consequence the Council have decided they must build themselves. A Scheme has been drawn up and approved by the Ministry for 100 houses, and building operations are now in hand. The following table will show total new houses built during these years :

Year.	Council.	Assisted Scheme.	Private Enterprise.	Total.
1921	46	28	7	81
1922	18	12	12	42
1923	—	—	18	18
1924	—	12	39	51
1925	—	32	23	55

With regard to existing cottages, much has been accomplished, 98 houses having been rendered fit for habitation and 835 had defects remedied.

WATER SUPPLY—

The only change in the Water Supplies has been at Bridford, where a new Public Supply has been provided. The works consists of pipes which collect the water from Springs and carry same to a service Reservoir at a level which permits of its availability for all the Village both as a domestic supply and in case of Fire; for the latter Hydrants have been provided at suitable places. The water which is of a very safe class, upland springwater, is soft in character and pure both chemically and bacteriologically.

SEWERAGE—

With respect to Sewerage, new Sewage disposal schemes with the necessary sewers have been laid down in three Villages, Newton Poppleford, Christow and Woodbury. In each case the works consist of Settling Tanks with sludge and control Pits and irrigation gutters. New Sewers have also been provided at Topsham, Kenton, Alphington, Countess Weir, and Rockbeare, and repairs or extensions at Bridford, Otterton and Exminster, so that in this branch of the public health, it can be safely said considerable progress has been made.

SCAVENGING—

In 1920 a start was made in this District to collect house Refuse from four of the most populous Villages in order to remove the danger arising from indiscriminate tipping of rubbish. This action was so justified by the results that other large Villages have been added to the number and there are now eleven Villages where the Refuse is collected either weekly, fortnightly or monthly according to the needs of the Parish.

FOOD INSPECTION—

There have been no important changes in Food Inspection during the years under review. The number of inspections of food shops and other places where food is kept, used or prepared for sale, remained much about the same for the first four years. Last year, owing to the Meat Regulations coming into being, a considerable excess of inspections to any previous year was shown.

MATERNITY, CHILD WELFARE, PROVISION OF HOSPITALS FOR TUBERCULOSIS, etc—

The arrangements made with respect to Maternity and Child Welfare, Provision of Hospitals for Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases leave no cause for complaint and remain unchanged.

With reference to paragraph C, I see no occasion to make any recommendations at present, as the Staff of the Sanitary Department, although fully occupied, are thoroughly capable of carrying out the various duties, and will be so, unless Housing or some other branch of public health work should unusually develop. The arrangements for hospital treatment continue satisfactory as heretofore.

There has been no special cause of sickness or invalidity in this District for the period under review, there having been only slight outbreaks of Influeza and other infectious diseases.

SUMMARY
OF
ANNUAL REPORT for 1925.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area of the St. Thomas Rural District,	111,575 acres.
Population Census 1921	26,479
Population, Estimated 1925	26,460
Number of Persons, per acre	.237
Number of Parishes comprising the District	45
Number of Inhabited Houses 1925	6,470
,, ,, ,, 1921	5,948
Number of Separate Families 1921	6,044
Rateable Value (Land) ...	£115,188
,, ,, Buildings)	£131,891
	<hr/>
	£247,079

Amount of Poor Law Relief	(Figures not available)
Assessable Value ...	£160,687
Sum Represented by 1d. Rate ...	£789

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Birth Rate per 1,000 ...	17.9	15.4	16.6	15.2	15.1
Death Rate per 1,000 ...	11.5	12.7	11.6	11.5	12.1
Infant Mortality per 1,000	53.4	54.3	60.1	39.7	75.0

The Population of the District is estimated at 26,460, and the Area 331,575 acres.

The District is chiefly Agricultural in character, there are 20 Industrial Undertakings that come under the head of Factories owing to the employment of mechanical power—these are Cyder Factories at Topsham, Whimple and Hele Station, Paper Mills at Stoke Canon and Silverton, Creameries at Aylesbeare, Builders at Sowton, Alphington and Clyst Hydon, Chemical Manure Works at Ebford, Woodbury, and Electric Light Stations at Exton and Topsham. There are also Fishing Industries at Topsham and Lympstone, and Quarrying at Bridford. There are three large Mental Institutions in the District, viz:—The Devon Mental Hospital at Exminster, Exeter Mental Hospital at Digby's, Topsham, and the Western Counties' Mental Hospital at Starcross; and of other Public Institutions—a Boys' Reformatory at Pinhoe and an Industrial School at Exminster. The Physical characters of the District are as follows:—The Clyst District is mainly composed of the lower marls and lower sandstone of the Permian series, being separated from the Otter by the pebble beds of Woodbury Common; the Otter District is composed of the upper sandstone of the Permian series; the Exe District of lower sandstone at its North and South extremities with Permian conglomerates in its midst; the Teign District of Carboniferous Shales which in the North runs partly into the Exe District, while at the Southern extremities the two are separated by the green sands of Haldon Hills. The Town of Topsham is on the lower sandstone while the rural portion of the Parish is Permian breccia and conglomuatis with some valley gravel.

**Causes of Death in St. Thomas Rural District.
1925.**

CAUSES OF DEATH.				Males	Females
Civilians only.					
ALL CAUSES.				166	155
1. Enteric Fever	...	...	...	1	2
2. Small-pox	...	...	...
3. Measles	...	...	...	1	
4. Scarlet Fever	...	...	...
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1	3
6. Diphtheria	...	...	...
7. Influenza	...	...	...	7	3
8. Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...		1
9. Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...
10. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	12	8
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	4	4
12. Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	17	19
13. Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...
14. Diabetes	...	...	...		2
15. Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	13	14
16. Heart Disease	...	...	...	14	21
17. Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	10	8
18. Bronchitis	...	...	...	11	12
19. Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	6	5
20. Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	1	5
21. Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	1	
22. Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...
23. Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	2	1
24. Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...
25. Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	7	5
26. Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...
27. Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	...	...		3
28. Congenital Debility and malformation premature birth	...	...	...	16	7
29. Suicide	...	...	...	3	1
30. Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	4	3
31. Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	33	27
32. Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	2	1
Special Causes (included above)					
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	...	Total	17	13	
		Illegitimate			
TOTAL BIRTHS	..	..	195	205	
Legitimate	...	...	189	196	
Illegitimate	...	...	6	9	
POPULATION	...	...	...	26,460	

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTH RATE.

The total number of Births registered in the St. Thomas Rural District for the Year 1925 was 400. 195 males, 205 females.

Of this number 6 males and 9 females were certified as illegitimate.

This gives a Birth rate of 15.1 per 1,000 of the corrected population being .1 lower than the Year 1924.

DEATH RATE.

The number of Deaths registered as occurring during the Year was 321, of which number 166 were of males and 155 of females.

INFANT MORTALITY.

30 children died under the age of one year. This gives an infantile mortality of 75 per 1,000 being 35.3 higher than for the Year 1924, and also the average of the whole country for the Year 1924.

The total Death rate being 12.1 per 1,000; .6 per 1,000 higher than for the Year 1924.

A detailed list showing the causes of death under 32 heads is given upon the opposite page.

The opposite table shows the Birth and Death Rate for 1913 (pre-war) and the Years 1920 to 1925.

	1913	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Birth Rate ...	19.7	23	17.9	15.4	16.6	15.2	15.1
Death Rate ...	17.8	13.5	11.5	12.7	11.6	11.5	12.1

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT

By arrangement with the Exeter City Authorities, cases of Infectious Disease are removed to the Whipton Sanatorium when necessary. Disinfection is subsequently carried out by means of a Thresh Disinfector and Formalin spray.

During the year disinfection was carried out in 87 cases.

BACTERIOLOGY.

Through the County Medical Officer of Health can be obtained Bacteriological Outfits for examination of specimens in relation to Typhoid, Paratyphoid, Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Plague, Dysentery, Malaria and Cerebro Spinal Fever, and reports on the same are obtained. A supply of antitoxin is kept and issued free of charge by this Council, and can be obtained from me at my residence, Beaufort House, St. Thomas; also antitetanic serum.

The professional Nursing in this District is almost wholly provided by the Devon Nursing Association, in some instances the maternity nursing is provided by private Nurses, there are but a very few Parishes without any provision.

In certain cases of infectious Disease arrangements can be made with the Association for their nursing. There is no financial responsibility on the District Council in respect of nursing as beyond the grants made by the Devon County Council and the St. Thomas Board of Guardians, the Association is maintained by Voluntary Subscription.

The number of Midwives practising is 20.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Milk is supplied to nursing and expectant mothers through the agency of the County Medical Officer of Health, the cost being borne in part by those who can afford to do so. The scattered nature of the District does not lend itself to the provision of a Maternity Clinic or Hospital, but two lady Health Visitors are employed for a large part of their time in this District.

HOSPITALS.

Hospitals at Ivybank, Exeter, and a Sanatorium at Hawkmoor, Bovey Tracey, are provided by the County Council for Tuberculosis, and also Hospitals by the Exeter City Council for Fever Patients from this District. In the latter case the City Council provide the Ambulance, and charge this Council the cost of each patient admitted. There are no ambulance facilities for non-Infectious and accident cases, but we utilise the St. Johns Ambulance, who have a very effective branch at Exeter.

A Small-Pox Hospital has been erected by the Devon County Council at Upton Pyne and is available for patients from this District.

There is no Institution for unmarried mothers, illegitimate or Homeless children in this area.

CHEMICAL WORK.

Beyond the analysis for Water which is done for this Council by the County Analyst, no arrangements for chemical work exist. Samples under the Food and Drugs Act, which is administered by the Police in this District, are also analysed by the County Analyst.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Byelaws are in force with respect to new Streets and Buildings for the Parishes of Alphington, Pinhoe and Topsham, and with respect to new Buildings for the remainder of Parishes. Byelaws have been in force in the former since 1894 and the latter since 1902.

Urban Powers with respect to Ruinous or Dangerous Buildings, came in force March 11th, 1901.

Sections 30, 31 and 33, comprised in Part II and Sections 34, 38, 44 and 45 comprised in Part III Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907 came in force February 26th, 1912.

The administration of the Building Byelaws has undoubtedly proved of great benefit to the Public Health, whilst the dangerous Building clauses have enabled the Council to deal with many derelict buildings which could not otherwise have been dealt with.

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Consists of myself L. P. Black, M.A., M.B., B.C., D.P.H., (CAMB.) M.R.S.S. (ENG.), L.R.C.P. (LOND.), Medical Officer of Health (part time), E. H. Quick, M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor for New and Dangerous Buildings, E. J. Soper, A.R.S.I., and R. J. Baker, Assistant Inspectors, and S. M. Perriam, Clerk, whole time officers.

Contribution is made under the Public Health Acts by Exchequer Grants, to the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

Treatment is available for cases at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER.

TOPSHAM. This supply is obtained from a borehole 200 feet deep and is pumped to a Water tower from which it is conveyed by mains over the whole of the Town ; the supply is constant and 375 houses, being about 62 per cent. of the whole, have the water laid on.

EAST BUDLEIGH. This supply is from springs which are collected and carried to a small filter and reservoir, and from thence by a 3 inch main to the Village. The supply is constant and of a total of 152 houses, 51 have the water laid on, the remainder being supplied by the 10 public taps. The water is affected by a peculiar mould, which, while apparently not affecting the water injuriously as a drinking supply, carrodes the pipes and causes trouble.

OTTERTON. This supply is from upland springs, the water being collected and carried to filters and reservoir, then by main to Village. The supply is constant and 92 houses have the supply laid on, the remainder being supplied by public stand pipes, wells and springs.

STAR CROSS. This supply is from springs, the water being collected and carried to a Reservoir, from thence by main throughout the Village. The supply is constant and 160 houses have the water laid on. Steps are being taken to prevent a possible source of pollution by road water, which in times of heavy rain gets on to the collecting area.

BRIDFORD. This supply which was completed in 1923, is from upland springs, the water being collected and taken to a reservoir, and from thence by main to the Village. The supply is constant, 26 houses have the water laid on and 18 houses are supplied from public tap, or about 42 per cent. of the whole population, to which the supply is at present available.

BICTON. This supply, which is a private one owned by Lord Clinton, is from a Spring, the water being carried to a reservoir, and from thence to the Village. The supply is constant, and 20 houses have the supply laid on.

ALPHINGTON AND PINHOE. These Villages have the Exeter City Council's mains, at Alphington 150 houses and at Pinhoe 222 houses have the supply laid on; thus it is available for 60 per cent. and 75 per cent. respectively of the population.

DUNSFORD. This Village has a public shute. The water is from a spring and is taken to a reservoir from thence to centre of Village; it supplies 14 houses, being 30 per cent. of the population.

DUNCHIDEOCK and IDE. Have similar supplies as Dunsford.

COLATON RALEIGH. This supply is from springs at Popham at the higher end of the Village, these are collected in a service tank from which it is carried by mains down through the whole length of the Village—Apart from a few farm houses, the whole of the Village is supplied with public taps.

LYMPSTONE. The efforts I referred to in my last year's report proving unsuccessful the Council have now instructed a Water Engineer to prepare a new scheme on the basis of an Artesian Well.

The remainder of the Villages are supplied by Wells as are also those houses in the Villages where the Public Supply is not available.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The affluent of some Sewers are carried into streams without apparent injury.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Villages of Alphington, Bramford Speke, Christow, Exminster, Ide, Newton Poppleford, Pinhoe, Rockbeare, Tedburn St. Mary, Whimple and Woodbury have Sewers with Settling Tanks and the effluent is carried to irrigation works. At Bridford, Broadclyst, and Dunsford, the Sewers discharge into Irrigation gutters. At Countess Weir, Lympstone, Starcross and Topsham, the Sewers discharge into Tidal Rivers, and at Aylesbeare, East Budleigh, Honiton Clyst, Kenton, Otterton, and Clyst St. Mary, the Sewers after tank treatment, discharge into streams.

The remainder of the parishes are of such a character that Sewers are at the present unnecessary.

New Sewers have been constructed at Christow, Rockbeare, Countess Weir and Woodbury.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The approximate number of closets in the district is 6,304 of which number 3,210 are Water Closets, 2,982 Earth Closets and 112 Privies. In the urban or semi-urban parishes Alphington, Exminster, Ide, Lympstone, Pinhoe, Starcross and Topsham, the majority of closets are Water Closets, in the remaining Rural parishes the majority are Earth Closets. Privies where found to be a nuisance are converted into Earth Closets or Water Closets, as the case may require. During the past five years, 18 have been converted into Earth Closets and 9 into Water Closets.

SCAVENGING.

In 1920, it was decided to collect the House refuse in certain Parishes that were of a semi-urban character, and in 1922 this was extended to certain others, bringing the total up to 11 Parishes; the work is done by contract and is carried out in a very satisfactory manner.

In only a few cases have movable ashbins been substituted for fixed receptacles.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

In addition to inspection arising through cases of Infectious Disease, many routine inspections have been made, some with the chief Sanitary Inspector, detailed particulars are set out on pages 22, 23, 24 and 25.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No cases have arisen requiring the Council's attention.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

There are none.

OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS REQUIRING NOTICE.

There are no special conditions that I am aware of requiring attention.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition of the schools continues to be satisfactory. Water is laid on in twelve cases, in twenty-five cases it is supplied by well and pump, and in two cases by a chute. At Rewe School there is no water supply.

With regard to the prevention of spread of disease from School the practise is to exclude all contacts, destroy the books of patient, and when necessary to disinfect the school. In very few instances, has it been found necessary to close the schools.

Housing.

To meet the need of small houses in this District, the Council have continued to grant subsidies of £100 per house (£25 Council £75 Government), to help private enterprise. During the year subsidies were granted in respect of 52 houses and 32 houses were completed. In addition, 23 other houses were built of which number 18 can be classed as houses for the working class. Although the granting of the subsidy has been of great assistance in providing small houses, it has not met the demand, and the Council have consequently decided they must build themselves. A Scheme was therefore prepared, to build 100 houses, this has been approved by the Ministry of Health and the work of building is now in hand.

There is a considerable amount of overcrowding in the District, caused by the shortage of houses, and as stated, to meet this shortage the Council are themselves going to build. There was only one case dealt with during the year, it being impossible to adequately deal with this except by building more houses.

The general standard of the houses is fair. The general character of defects in unfit houses is decay and ordinary wear and tear. To deal with these houses, action is generally taken under the Housing Acts. Difficulties sometimes arise where the cost of rendering the houses fit is of a considerable amount, while the rent received is only a few shillings a week.

Generally the conditions as regards the water supply, closet accommodation and refuse disposal are satisfactory, there are exceptions, and these are dealt with elsewhere in this report.

UNHEALTHY AREAS. No complaint has been received or representations made during the past five years.

BYELAWS RELATING TO HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS, ETC. There are no byelaws and no need for them.

GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS. No action taken or required to be taken.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	55
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With State assistance under the Housings Acts, 1919 to 1925 :

(i) By Local Authority	0
(ii) By other bodies or persons	32

1. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES INSPECTION—

(1) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1147
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 ...	152
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
(4) Number of Dwelling Houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-heading, found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	35

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	4
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919—	
(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	31
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit—	
(a) By Owners	25
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	0
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intentions to close	0
B. Proceedings under the Public Health Acts—	
(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	206

(2)	Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied—	
	(a) By Owners	189
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	0
C.	Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing, Act, 1925—	
(1)	Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ...	0
(2)	Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	0
(3)	Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Dwelling Houses having been rendered fit ...	0
(4)	Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	1
(5)	Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	1

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK. During the year the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915 came in force the principal Sections affecting Rural Districts being 5, which makes it an offence for any person to sell or offer for sale Tuberculous milk, and 8, which gives power to the Local authority to take samples of milk for analysis; this act together with the Milk and Dairies Amendment Act, 1922 and the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders give ample powers for the protection of the milk supply from contamination.

The Dairies throughout the district with few exceptions continue to be kept in a very clean and wholesome condition, the few exceptions being where they are also used as larders. This practice is always condemned and I am pleased to say is diminishing.

With respect to the Cowsheds, these show a steady and continuous improvement, the cowkeepers themselves are recognising the benefits both to the health of the cattle and the purity of the milk that accrue from cowsheds which are clean, well lighted and ventilated, and I am confident this improvement will continue to increase as farmers more and more recognise the utmost importance of Hygienic Cowsheds upon clean milk.

During the year 2 new Cowsheds have been built and 6 renovated.

No ground for action has been established with respect to tuberculosis milk or cattle—No licences granted or revoked and no bacteriological examinations made—these latter are carried out by the County Council.

MEAT. Slaughter-houses are regularly visited, either during time of slaughter or just after when the carcases are carefully examined, all meat found unfit for food has been destroyed by burial in lime. All shops and other places for the sale or deposit of meat are also inspected. There are no public slaughter-houses in the district, but the following show the number of private slaughter-houses for the years 1920 and 1925.

	1920	January 1925	December 1925
Registered	28	19	19
Licensed	6	8	14
	—	—	—
	34	27	33
	—	—	—

OTHER FOOD STORES. These are inspected from time to time, but no action has been found necessary. The sanitary condition of bakehouses receives special attention of the staff.

PUBLIC HEALTH CONDENSED MILK REGULATIONS 1923 and Public Health Dried Milk Regulation 1923. No action taken or required.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1875. During the year samples were taken as set out below. On analysis all were found to be genuine. The number of samples are as follows :-

New Milk	19
Flour	3
Lard	2
Sugar	2
Butter	2
Tapioca	2
Mixed Sweets	4
Margarine	3
Sponge Cake	1
Pepper	4
Ginger	1
Cheese	1
Bread	1
Cocoa	1
Baking Powder	1
Vinegar	1
Custard Powder	1
Quaker Oats	1
Sauce	1
Tea	1
	—

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Diseases.

The most prevalent diseases during the five years have been Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria. In each case definite enquiry is made as to the source of infection and where Isolation is unsatisfactory the patient is removed to the Isolation Hospital and disinfection carried out in every case. Schick and Dick tests are not carried out.

The number of primary vaccinations and re-vaccinations under the Small-Pox Regulations 1917 are nil.

School notifications of Measles, Whooping Cough etc. are utilised as far as possible, and are found to be very valuable in facilitating the work of prevention.

Verminous houses are fumigated with sulphur and cleansing notices served under Sec. 46 P.H.A.

TUBERCULOSIS 1925.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925. During the year there has been only one case calling for action under these Regulations, this being the wife of a Farmer; notice was served under Section 5.

There have been no compulsory removals to hospital under Sec. 62.

With regard to the principal Infectious Diseases, the following Table shows the

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.	CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL	TOTAL DEATHS.
Small Pox	-	-	-
Diphtheria	10	8	
Scarlet Fever	57	45	
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	30	3	3
Puerperal Fever	1		
Pneumonia	15		11
Erysipelas	4		
Encephalitis Lethargica	2		1
Acute Poliomyelitis	0		
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0		
Tuberculosis—			
(a) Pulmonary } Male	24	4	9
} Female	28	6	9
} Total	—52	10	—18
(b) Non-Pulmonary } Male	7		2
} Female	1		1
} Total	—8		—3
	179	66	36

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Period.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1	2						1	
5	1		1					
10	1		1					
15	4	1	1		1		1	
20	2	5	1		2		1	
25	9	9			2		1	
35	4	3			3		2	
45	5	1	1	1	1			1
55	1	1	1		2			
65 and upwards	1	2	1		1		1	
Totals ..	30	22	7	1	9	8	2	1

The ratio of non-notified deaths to total deaths is one in 7, and I consider the efficiency of notification in this district to be satisfactory, especially considering that in certain cases, especially Tubercular Meningitis the disease may be very rapid.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum	CASES			Vision unimpair- ed	Vision impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths				
	Notified	Treated									
		At Home									
		In Hospital									
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				

DIPHTHERIA.

During the year there has been no epidemic of this disease. The number of cases notified being 10 of whom 7 were males and 3 females, a decrease of 5 from the year 1924, giving an attack rate of 0.37 per 1000 of the population, the majority of the cases were of a mild type and none proved fatal. 8 cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital at Whipton, all of whom were discharged cured.

The cases occurred two each at Bramford Speke and Exminster, and one each at Doddiscombsleigh, Honiton Clyst, Ide, Sowton, Topsham and Woodbury. In each case the drains were examined and where found defective were remedied.

SCARLET FEVER.

The total number of cases notified was 57, of whom 30 were males and 27 females, an increase of 15 over the year 1924, giving an attack rate of 2.1 per 1,000 of the population. 45 cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, all of whom were discharged cured.

There were slight epidemics at Lympstone, 14 cases, Aylesbeare 9 cases and Pinhoe 9 cases. 6 cases occurred at Woodbury, 4 Broadclyst, three each Shillingford and Clyst St. Mary, two each at Ashcombe and Upton Pyne, and one each at Clyst Hydon, Exminster, Honiton Clyst, Powderham and Stoke Canon. The cases call for no special comment.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Excluding Public Institutions, there were four cases reported.

One case was that of a nurse employed at the Devon Mental Hospital, Exminster, and there can be no doubt she contracted the disease at that Institution. The case was removed to the Isolation Hospital and discharged cured.

Two cases in one house occurred at Countess Weir, a mother and her son, the latter a farm labourer was first taken ill and removed to the Isolation Hospital where despite every care and attention the case proved fatal. Within a month, the mother was removed to the Isolation Hospital suffering from the same disease, which also ended fatally.

A sample of Water was taken for analysis and proved satisfactory, but the drains upon examination were found defective and condemned. A new sewer has since been provided to enable the drains of this and other houses in the vicinity to be properly drained.

The other case was at Topsham, being the wife of a man engaged in unloading vessels from foreign seaports. This case was not removed to the Isolation Hospital as the patient was too ill to be moved when notified, and she died the following day. A sample of water was taken from the well for analysis, and not proving satisfactory, the well was condemned and the Public Supply laid on, the drains and Water Closet was also renewed.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

One case only was reported.

PNEUMONIA.

7 cases were notified during the year, they call for no comment, being ordinary cases.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

2 cases were notified, one being a female 60 years, which proved fatal, and the other was that of a female 19 years old, this case recovered.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of cases notified this year is 60, of these 31 are males and 29 females, 52 cases pulmonary, and 8 non-pulmonary. This gives a pulmonary attack of 2.2 per thousand. These are exclusive of cases occurring in Public Institutions.

The number of cases of Tuberculosis remaining in the district on December 31st, 1925, was 193, of which 165 were pulmonary, and 32 non-pulmonary.

In every case after death or removal, disinfection of the rooms and bedding is carried out. Premises vacated by tubercular patients are also disinfected when known. Prompt disinfection can only be carried out in these cases when the change of residence on the part of the patient is notified immediately. The measures adopted to secure the efficient notification of change of residence are working satisfactorily. During the year 1925 disinfection has been carried out in 25 cases.

SMALL POX.

During the year, this disease has given considerable trouble in many parts of the country, but I am pleased to be able to say there have been no cases in this district. The Devon County Council have provided an Isolation Hospital to which cases from this district can be sent, but one naturally hopes such occasion may never arise.

I append the Report of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. E. H. Quick, and have the honour to be Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

L. P. BLACK, M.A., M.B., B.C., D.P.H. (CAMB.)
M.R.C.S. (ENG.), L.R.C.P. (LOND.)

**SUMMARY OF WORK EXECUTED THROUGH
SANITARY INSPECTOR, 1925.**

Bake-houses	No. of Bakehouses	...	...	39
	,, Visits, do....	...	..	30
	,, found Defective	...	...	0
Dairies, Milkshops and Cowsheds	No. of Dairies	223	Milkshops	8	Cowsheds	225
	,, Visits to	95	,,	6	,,	96
	,,found Defective	1	,,	0	,,	11
Drainage	No. of Private House Drains connected with					
	Sewers	..	...	50
	,, Drains repaired	...	...	16
	,, New Drains	...	...	88
	,, Slop Drains	...	...	0
	,, New Sewers	...	...	4
Food	No. of Seizures of Unsound Meat, Fish, etc.			None		
Houses	No. of New Houses erected	...	...	55
	,, Old Houses satisfactorily renovated			25		
	,, Plans of New Houses presented to					
	the Authority for approval	...		76		
	,, Plans passed	...	...	76
	,, Houses condemned as being unfit for					
	human habitation	...	...	0
	,, Houses closed	...	...	0
	,, Houses repaired and limewashed	...		114		
	,, Premises inspected under the Public					
	Health Act and Housing Regula-					
	tion, 1910	...	...	
				968		
Disinfections	No. of Lots of Bedding and Clothing dis-					
	infected	...	...	87
	,, Houses disinfected	...	...	87
	,, Schools disinfected	...	...	2
Legal Proceedings	No. of Summons taken out for abatement					
	of Nuisances	...	...	None
	,, Convictions	..	...	None
Nuisances	No. of Complaints	...	...	53
	,, Notices issued for abatement of					
	Nuisances	...	...	206
	,, Nuisances abated	..	...	164
	,, Cases of overcrowding...		...	1		
	,, Cases abated	...	...	1
	,, Complaints of Pigstyes		...	2		
	,, Animals removed	...	...	2

Offensive Trades	No. of Offensive Trades	...	...	2
	" "	,,	improperly conducted	0
Closets	No. of Privies converted into Earth Closets			3
	" Conversions into Water Closets	...		0
	" Cases insufficient Closet accommodation			6
	" Cases remedied	...	...	16
Railway Stations	No. of Visits	...	...	10
	Conditions satisfactory or not ..			Yes
Scavenging	No. of Refuse Heaps discovered injurious to health...	...	...	1
	" Refuse Heaps remedied			1
	Public Scavenging carried on at—Topsham, Starcross, Pinhoe, Lympstone, Alphington, Ide, Kenton, East Budleigh, Woodbury, Countess Weir, Exminster.			
Schools	No. of Schools inspected	...	...	25
	" found in Unsanitary condition			1
Slaughter Houses	No. of Slaughter Houses	...	...	35
	" Visits	...	...	144
	" found defective	...	...	11
	" Diseased Animals or Carcasses found unfit for human consumption	...		6
	Nature of Diseases, imported unfit condition, Tubercular or casualty Tubercular			
Water Supply	No. of Samples of Water taken for analysis			2
	" found polluted	...	...	1
	" New Houses certified for occupation with adequate water supply	...		55
	" Villages supplied with suspicious wells			2
	" Old Wells cleaned out, repaired	...		21
	" New Wells sunk	...		19
	" Villages with Public Supply	...		12
	" Villages dependent on Wells	...		35
	" Complaints as to Water Supply	...		12

E. H. QUICK, M.S.I.A.,

Sanitary Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1925.

For the Rural District of St. Thomas, on the administration of
the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901,
in connection with
**FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES AND
HOMEWORK.**

**1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and
Workplaces.**

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors
of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspec- tions. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecu- tions. (4)
Factories—			
Including Factory Laundries	6	0	0
Workshops—			
Including Workshop Laundries	26	0	0
Workplaces—			
Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report	0	0	0
Total ..	32	0	0

**2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and
Workplaces.**

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :</i>				
Want of Cleanliness ..	2	2		
Want of ventilation ..				
Overcrowding ..				
Want of drainage of floors ..				
Other nuisances ..				
Sanitary accommodation } insufficient ..	2	2		
} unsuitable or defective ..				
} not separate for sexes ..				
Total ..	4	4		

3.—Registered Workshops.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year (1)	Number (2)
Bakehouses	39
Dressmakers	17
Tailors	9
Smiths	34
All other Trades	87
Total number of Workshops on Register ..	186

4.—Other Matters.

Class. (1)	Number (2)
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 133, 1901)	
Action taken in matter referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts, (s. 5, 1901.)	
Notified by H.M. Inspector	
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector ..	
Other	
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) in use at the end of the year	

(Signature) L. P. BLACK,

Medical Officer of Health.

Dated May 21st, 1926.

